

Applic. No. 10/676,589
Amdt. dated July 19, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 19, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-5 and 7-12 have been rejected as being obvious over Edwards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,793,406 B1) (hereinafter "Edwards") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and as a whole, the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, in order to facilitate prosecution of the application, subject matter from claim 2 has been added to claim 1.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

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a transparent coupling area configured for directly contacting the optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module when the optical fiber is inserted into the holding area.

The Edwards reference discloses a receptacle assembly (11) that includes a ferrule (20) with an end portion (22) (connecting area) for connecting to an optical package (12). The ferrule (20) includes a front portion (21) (holding area) for holding an optical fiber (14).

It is a requirement for a *prima facie* case of obviousness, that the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The reference does not show or suggest a transparent coupling area configured for directly contacting the optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module when the optical fiber is inserted into the holding area, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The Edwards reference discloses a free space between the lens assembly (36) and the end portion (22) (connecting area).

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Edwards does not disclose that a transparent coupling area is configured for directly contacting an optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and a optical transmitting and/or receiving module. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which a transparent coupling area is configured for directly contacting the optical fiber and for directly coupling light between the optical fiber and the optical transmitting and/or receiving module when the optical fiber is inserted into the holding area.

The references applied by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Therefore, it is believed that the Examiner has not produced a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claim 1 also calls for, *inter alia*:

the transparent coupling area formed integral with the holding area and the connecting area.

The Edwards reference discloses that the receptacle assembly (11) is constructed of separate different components including a spacer (35) and a lens assembly (36). The spacer (35) and the lens assembly (36) are definitely separate from the end portion (22) and the front portion (21).

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It is a requirement for a *prima facie* case of obviousness, that the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The reference does not show or suggest the transparent coupling area formed integral with the holding area and the connecting area, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The Edwards reference discloses that the receptacle assembly (11) is constructed of separate different components. Edwards does not disclose that a coupling area is formed integral with the holding area. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which coupling area is formed integral with the holding area and the connecting area.

Furthermore, because the lens assembly (36) is made of plastic (column 3, lines 11-14) and the spacer (35) is made of glass material (column 3, lines 36-38), it is not possible to integrally form these components in one single unit.

Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art is not provided with any motivation to modify Edwards to obviate the present invention as claimed.

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The references applied by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Therefore, it is believed that the Examiner has not produced a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Edwards, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12 are believed to be allowable over Edwards as well.

Even though claim 7 is believed to be allowable, the following remarks pertain to claim 7. The Edwards reference does not disclose a horizontally running base plate, as recited in claim 7 of the instant application. Because the horizontally running base plate is formed with the coupling area and the coupling area is integrally formed with the holding area and the connecting area, the horizontally running base plate is also integrally formed with the holding area and the connecting area. Accordingly, the Edwards reference does not disclose a horizontally running base plate formed with the coupling area therein, as recited in claim 7 of the instant application.

In the last paragraph on page 5 of the Office action, claim 6 has been rejected as being obvious over Edwards (U.S. Patent No. 6,793,406 B1) in view of Roberts (DE 33 16 236 A1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Roberts does not make up for the deficiencies

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of Edwards. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claim 6 is believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 are solicited.

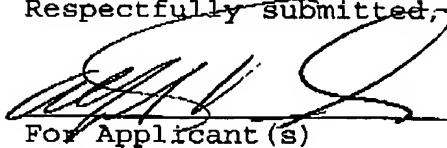
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

Alfred K. Dassler
52,794

AKD:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101